

We claim:

1. A method of performing a cell update during a reconfiguration procedure in a user equipment in a communications system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a reconfiguration command, the reconfiguration command including an activation time at which a reconfiguration is to be applied;

detecting a trigger event which indicates that a cell update is required; and

delaying initiation of the cell update until the reconfiguration has been applied.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the activation time has the value 'Now', the method including applying the reconfiguration as soon as the user equipment is able to do so.

3. A method of handling a cell update during a reconfiguration procedure in a user equipment in a communications system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a reconfiguration command, the reconfiguration command including an activation time at which a reconfiguration is to be applied;

detecting a trigger event which indicates that a cell update is required; and

suppressing the cell update depending on the trigger event.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the user equipment is configured to communicate with a UTRAN in a UMTS communications system, comprising suppressing the cell update depending on the relevance of the trigger event to the UTRAN after reconfiguration.

5. A method according to claim 4, comprising suppressing the cell update when the trigger event comprises a radio link failure.

6. User equipment for performing a cell update during a reconfiguration procedure in a communications system, the equipment comprising:

a receiver for receiving a reconfiguration command, the reconfiguration command including an activation time at which a reconfiguration is to be applied;

an event detector for detecting a trigger event which indicates that a cell update is required; and

a controller for delaying initiation of the cell update until the reconfiguration has been applied.

7. User equipment according to claim 6, further comprising a timer arranged to cooperate with the controller for delaying initiation of the cell update.

8. User equipment for handling a cell update during a reconfiguration procedure in a communications system, the equipment comprising:

a receiver for receiving a reconfiguration command, the reconfiguration command including an activation time at which a reconfiguration is to be applied;

an event detector for detecting a trigger event which indicates that a cell update is required; and

a controller for suppressing the cell update in dependence on the trigger event.

9. User equipment according to claim 8, wherein the user equipment is configured to communicate with a UTRAN in a UMTS communications system, and wherein the controller is arranged to suppress the cell update depending on the relevance of the trigger event to the UTRAN after reconfiguration.

10. User equipment according to claim 9, wherein the controller is arranged to suppress the cell update when the trigger event comprises a radio link failure.